



BRIEFING: April 12, 2016 BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM #10

TO: Chairman Richard and Board Members

FROM: Michelle Boehm, Southern California Regional Director

DATE: April 12, 2016

RE: Update on the Los Angeles to San Diego Project Section

Purpose

The purpose of this agenda item is to provide a status update regarding the development of the Los Angeles to San Diego project section.

This is an information item only. Staff work efforts on this section are being presented to the Board for its information, but no Board action is involved at this time.

Background

The 170-mile Los Angeles to San Diego via the Inland Empire corridor of the high-speed rail system was identified in statute in Proposition 1A as Phase 2 for implementation of the overall program. As such, work in the corridor has focused on stakeholder engagement, alignment alternatives analysis, and planning.

The timeline of activities for the Los Angeles to San Diego corridor includes:

- The 2009 adoption of an MOU lead to the creation of the Southern California Inland Corridor Group (SoCal ICG) to integrate high-speed rail planning with regional transportation and land use plans. SoCal ICG members include the transportation and planning agencies in Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego Counties.
- The 2009 release of the public scoping notice and scoping meetings presented the proposed Los Angeles-San Diego Project Section study area. The 2010 Scoping Report summarized the public scoping process, and the public and agency comments received during scoping.
- The 2011 Preliminary Alternatives Analysis Report document (AA) presented an evaluation of the initial alignment alternatives, station alternatives and design options. Advancement of conceptual engineering and preliminary environmental review activities are underway to address stakeholder and community feedback received on alignment

concepts presented in the 2011 (AA) Report. Alternatives screening memos documenting this activity are in preparation.

- The 2013 Draft Alignment Refinement report revisited alignments from the 2011 AA to address community concerns or design challenges and developed refined alignment alternatives to help avoid or reduce identified issues. High-level environmental analysis and feasibility of the alternatives was documented within this planning document.

Discussion

Since 2014, the Los Angeles-San Diego project section has advanced in both corridor planning and project definition. The work is being performed under a multi-year, \$5 million regional consultant contract. Under this contract, the Authority continues to advance the design, analysis, and refinement of alignment alternatives which will be documented in an Alternatives Analysis report in 2017.

In conjunction with corridor definition efforts, the Authority has also undertaken a technical planning study that will be finalized in 2017. This planning document will be developed in close coordination with the ICG member agencies and will present strategies for how high-speed rail will be implemented in the project section, including prioritizing locations for advancing enhanced connections to the Phase 1 system, early blended service, phasing, opportunities for right-of-way preservation and approaches for environmental clearance, partnerships and funding, and next steps to move the high-speed rail project forward.

The planning document and process will identify opportunities in the region that provide for improved connectivity from the Inland Empire and San Diego to the Phase 1 high-speed rail system and across the region while also accommodating the future Phase 2 high-speed rail corridor. Additional alignment refinements and planning in key areas such as at Ontario International Airport and San Diego International Airport inform local investments already occurring and provide input to future local, regional and state projects that improve mobility and provide connectivity.

Concurrently, other agencies are advancing planning efforts that will support and enhance the Southern California passenger rail network, including the California State Rail Plan. The Los Angeles to San Diego planning work is being performed collaboratively with these efforts. Upon completion it will reflect these plans and inform other ongoing studies.

Next Steps

- Continue to advance corridor planning and project definition.
- Coordinate with local agencies to identify opportunities for concurrent investments that will provide immediate benefits and could facilitate future high-speed rail.